



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
23 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0023

PAUL R. LEPAGE
GOVERNOR

JAMES E. RIER, JR.
ACTING COMMISSIONER

Exhibit # VI.B.

TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: James E. Rier, Jr., Acting Commissioner of Education *

DATE: December 4, 2013

SUBJECT: Request from University of Maine Fort Kent for an Extension of the Current State Program Approval of its Educator Preparation Programs through March 2014.

BACKGROUND:

The State Board approved the University of Maine Fort Kent's Educator Preparation Program in June of 2012, but only until December 31, 2013. In the June 2012 review process there were some concerns raised about the quality of the program.

Dr. Bruno Hicks at UMFK recently contacted the Maine DOE inquiring about the next steps of the approval process. The University of Maine at Fort Kent has prepared a report describing the actions that UMFK has taken to address the concerns about the teacher preparation program. Due to the lack of time necessary to add a review of the UMFK report to the State Board of Education agenda for the December 4, 2013 meeting, the University of Maine Fort Kent is requesting that the State Board extend the current approval of the University of Maine Fort Kent Teacher Education Program through March 2014 until the State Board can review the UMFK report at the January 2014 meeting.

Dr. Bruno will forward the UMFK report to Mary Becker, Secretary for the State Board of Education.

State Board Rule Chapter 114, Part 3.1 (e) reads as follows:

Requests for extensions for existing approval, due to extraordinary circumstances, may be granted at the discretion of the State Board of Education; however, such extensions shall not extend the date when the subsequent approval is due. The Board will only consider such requests in emergency situations.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION:

That the State Board of Education act favorably upon the request from the University of Maine at Fort Kent Teacher Preparation program and extend the current program approval for its educator preparation program for four months through March, 2014 until the report from the University of Maine at Fort Kent can be reviewed by the State Board of Education.

*Prepared by Anita Bernhardt, Coordinator for Standards and Instruction